

## DRAFT Talking Points

### General

- The WDNR's private well regulatory authority is limited to proper well construction and pump installation. Protection and maintenance of a private well is largely the responsibility of the homeowner.
- The WDNR recommends that private well owners test their well at least once a year for bacteria and nitrate and any time they notice a change in how their water looks, tastes or smells.
- Common Sources of Nitrate in Wisconsin include:
  - Commercial fertilizers – Application of fertilizer on farm fields is addressed in Wisconsin through compliance with NRCS technical standard 590 for Nutrient Management Planning (NMP). Technical support for implementation of NMPs comes from DATCP, NRCS, County Land Conservation Departments.
  - Manure – Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) - farms with more than 1000 animal units - are required to obtain a WDNR permit. The permit requires a CAFO to manage landspreading of manure by spreading on approved fields and following an approved nutrient management plan. WDNR's nonpoint program regulations for livestock operators and crop producers apply to all farms (including small and medium farms).
  - Private septic systems – Counties regulate the construction and maintenance of private onsite wastewater treatment systems. Septic permits require specific system design depending on soil type and percolation rate, and require regular maintenance and pumping.
  - Septage – Hauling and landspreading of septage requires a WDNR permit. The permit requires the hauler to spread on approved fields and follow an approved nutrient management plan.
- WDNR has worked cooperatively on this issue with:
  - United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
  - Wisconsin Department of Health (DHS)
  - Juneau and Wood County Health Departments
  - Juneau County Land and Water Resources
  - University of Wisconsin Extension Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center

### **Options for Well Owners**

- Protection and maintenance of a private well is largely the responsibility of the homeowner.
- The best long-term option is to work with a licensed well driller to install a new well in a zone of the aquifer with safe water
  - WDNR has developed a casing recommendation for this area of 80-100 feet.
- A second option is to install a certified and effective nitrate treatment system. Two options include two main categories:
  - Point of Use Reverse Osmosis
  - Point of Entry Anion Exchange
  - Post treatment sampling recommended for all treatment devices
  - WI Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) maintains a list of approved/certified treatment devices
- Bottled water is a short-term option, but DNR recommends replacing the your well or installing an approved treatment device for a long-term solution.

### **CAFO WPDES Permit**

- The WDNR maintains a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) internet site which has general information, guiding rules, and the permit process, among other resources: [ [HYPERLINK "https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/agbusiness/CAFO/"](https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/agbusiness/CAFO/) ]
- A public informational hearing was held on the proposed Central Sands Dairy permit March 22, 2018, and the 30-day public comment period ended on March 29, 2018.
- The Department is reviewing public comments and evaluating results from the recent sampling events to determine possible conditions of permit reissuance.

### **Sampling Events**

- WDNR is aware of sampling conducted by EPA, DATCP and the Wood County Health Dept. WDNR is evaluating these results and will coordinate further with EPA, DATCP and state/county health departments to determine the appropriate next steps to protect public health.
- WDNR is not far enough along in our evaluation to discuss detailed results, findings or conclusions.